

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

**GULF OF MEXICO REGION  
(AREAS IN GULF OF MEXICO AND ATLANTIC OCS)**

**Requirements for Geological and Geophysical Explorations  
or Scientific Research in the Outer Continental Shelf**

**Application for Permit to Conduct Geological or Geophysical  
Exploration for Mineral Resources or Scientific Research  
in the Outer Continental Shelf**

(Attachment 1)

**Nonexclusive Use Agreement for Scientific Research**

(Attachment 2)

SUBMIT: Original, two copies, and one public information copy (all with original signatures).

**The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995** (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires us to inform you that: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) collects this information to evaluate applications for permits to conduct prelease exploration offshore and to monitor activities of scientific research conducted under notices. MMS uses the information to ensure there is no environmental degradation, personnel harm, damage to historical or cultural sites, or interference with other uses. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 6 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Mail Stop 4230, Minerals Management Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATIONS  
OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

**Authority**

All geological and geophysical explorations or scientific research activities authorized and conducted in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) must be performed in accordance with the OCS Lands Act, 30 CFR Part 251, and other applicable Federal statutes and regulations, and amendments thereto.

**General Requirements of Permits and Notices**

Geological and geophysical activities for mineral exploration or scientific research activities authorized under 30 CFR Part 251 must be conducted so that those activities do not:

- A. Interfere with or endanger operations under any lease or right-of-way or permit issued or maintained pursuant to the OCS Lands Act;
- B. Cause harm or damage to aquatic life or to the marine, coastal, or human environment;
- C. Cause pollution;
- D. Create hazardous or unsafe conditions;
- E. Unreasonably interfere with or harm other uses of the area; or
- F. Disturb archaeological resources.

Any person conducting geological or geophysical activities for mineral exploration or scientific research under 30 CFR Part 251 must immediately report to the Director, MMS:

- A. Detection of hydrocarbon occurrences;
- B. Encounters of environmental hazards which constitute an imminent threat to human activity; or
- C. Activities which adversely affect the environment, aquatic life, archaeological resources, or other uses of the area in which the exploration or scientific research activities are conducted.

Any person conducting shallow or deep stratigraphic test drilling activities under a permit for mineral exploration or scientific research under 30 CFR Part 251 must utilize the best available and safest technologies which the Director, MMS, determines to be economically feasible.

Authorization granted under 30 CFR Part 251 to conduct geological and geophysical explorations for minerals or for scientific research will not confer a right to any discovered oil, gas, or other minerals, or to a lease under the OCS Lands Act.

**Time Restriction for Permits and Notices**

Permitted activities approved for a specified period, including requests for extensions, and activities under a notice may not exceed one year.

## **Geological and Geophysical Activities Requiring Permits and Notices**

### **Geological and Geophysical Explorations for Mineral Resources**

Geological and geophysical explorations for mineral resources may not be conducted in the OCS without an approved permit unless such activities are being conducted pursuant to a lease issued or maintained under the OCS Lands Act. Separate permits must be obtained for either geological or geophysical explorations for mineral resources. If the Director, MMS, disapproves an application, the statement of rejection will state the reasons for the denial and will advise the applicant of those changes needed to obtain approval.

### **Geological and Geophysical Scientific Research**

Geological and geophysical scientific research related to oil, gas, and sulphur may not be conducted by any person in the OCS without an approved application for permit or filing of a notice. Separate permits must be obtained for geological and geophysical scientific research which involves the use of solid or liquid explosives or the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test. If the Director, MMS, disapproves an application for permit, the statement of rejection will state the reasons for the denial and will advise the applicant of the changes needed to obtain approval.

A notice must be filed with the Director, MMS, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of scientific research not requiring a permit. The Director, MMS, may inform the person who filed the notice of all environmental laws and regulations applicable to the OCS.

## **Information Required for Permits**

Each applicant for a permit must complete the applicable sections of the Application for Permit (Attachment 1) and must include a page-size plat(s) showing the location of the proposed activity. The plat(s) should show geographic coordinates relative to the MMS area and block numbers, an easily identified onshore point of reference, and the distance and direction from the point of reference to area of activity. Line locations should not be included on these plat(s). In addition, each applicant for a geological or geophysical permit must submit the appropriate attachment to section D of the application. Each applicant for a scientific research permit must also complete a Nonexclusive Use Agreement (Attachment 2).

The information provided on the Application for Permit (excluding section D) and on the Nonexclusive Use Agreement, including continuation sheets and the page-size plat(s), is considered NONPROPRIETARY INFORMATION. These non-proprietary portions of the application constitute the "public information" copy of Form 327 and with the executed permit will be available to the public upon request.

The information listed in section D is considered PROPRIETARY INFORMATION and should NOT be attached to the public information copy. MMS will not make this information available to the public without the consent of the potential permittee or for a period mandated by law from the date of issuance of the permit, whichever is less. However, the Director of the MMS may determine that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted.

## **Modifications to Approved Permits**

Any modification to the permitted operations requires prior approval from the MMS Regional Supervisor.

## **Filing Locations for Permits to Conduct Explorations for Mineral Resources and for Permits or Notices to Conduct Scientific Research**

Each notice or application for a permit must be filed in triplicate plus one public information copy at the following locations 30 days prior to initiating operations:

A. For the OCS off the State of Alaska:

Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation  
Minerals Management Service  
Alaska OCS Region  
949 East 36th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302

B. For the OCS in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Atlantic Coast:

Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

C. For the OCS off the States of California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii:

Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation  
Minerals Management Service  
Pacific OCS Region  
770 Paseo Camarillo  
Camarillo, California 93010-6064

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**GULF OF MEXICO REGION  
(AREAS IN GULF OF MEXICO AND ATLANTIC OCS)**

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO CONDUCT GEOLOGICAL OR GEOPHYSICAL  
EXPLORATION FOR MINERAL RESOURCES OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

(Section 11, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of August 7, 1953, as amended on September 18, 1978, by Public Law 95-372, 92 Statute 629, 43 U.S.C. 1340; and 30 CFR Part 251)

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Name of Applicant

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Number and Street

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City, State, and Zip Code

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Name of Service Company or Purchaser  
(if different from above)

**Application is herein made for the following activity: (check one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Geological exploration for mineral resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Geological scientific research

\_\_\_\_\_ Geophysical exploration for mineral resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Geophysical scientific research

**Submit:** Original, two copies, and one public information copy.

## A. General Information

1. The activity will be conducted by:

_____	For	_____
Service Company Name		Purchaser(s) of the Data
_____		_____
Address		Address
_____		_____
Telephone/FAX Numbers		Telephone/FAX Numbers
_____		_____
E-Mail Address		E-Mail Address

2. The purpose of the activity is: \_\_\_\_\_ Mineral exploration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scientific research
3. Describe the environmental effects of the proposed activity, including potential adverse effects on marine life and what steps are planned to minimize these adverse effects (use continuation sheets as necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The expected commencement date is: \_\_\_\_\_

The expected completion date is: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The name of the individual in charge of the field operation is: \_\_\_\_\_

May be contacted at: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Local) \_\_\_\_\_ (Marine) \_\_\_\_\_

Radio call sign \_\_\_\_\_

6. The vessel(s) to be used in the operation is (are):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Registry number \_\_\_\_\_

Registered owner \_\_\_\_\_

7. The port from which the vessel(s) will operate is: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Briefly describe the navigation system (vessel navigation only): \_\_\_\_\_

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**B. Complete for Geological Exploration for Mineral Resources or Geological Scientific Research**

1. The type of operation(s) to be employed is: (check one)

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ Deep stratigraphic test, or (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Shallow stratigraphic test with proposed total depth of \_\_\_\_\_, or (c) \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Exact geographic coordinates of proposed test(s) (attach a page-size plat(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. Complete for Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources or Geophysical Scientific Research**

1. Proposed location of the activity (attach a page-size plat(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

2. The type(s) of operation(s) to be employed is (are): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Seismic, gravity, magnetic, etc.)

3. The instrumentation and/or technique(s) to be used in the operation(s) is (are): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Air gun, sparker, etc.)

4. Explosive charges will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ be used. If applicable, indicate the type of explosive and maximum charge size (in pounds) to be used:

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds \_\_\_\_\_ Equivalent Pounds of TNT \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Proprietary Information Attachments

Use the appropriate form on page 9 for a “geological” permit application or the form on page 10 for a “geophysical” permit application. You must submit a separate Form MMS-327 to apply for each geological or geophysical permit.

## E. Certification

I hereby certify that foregoing and attached information are true and correct.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## TO BE COMPLETED BY MMS

Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_ Assigned by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
of MMS

This application is hereby:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Approved
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Returned for reasons in the attached

The approved permit is:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Attached
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Will be forwarded at a later date

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Supervisor DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**Section D Proprietary Information Attachment  
Required for an Application for  
Geological Permit**

1. Brief description of method of shallow drilling or sampling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Brief description of shallow drilling or sampling equipment to be used: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of boring or sample locations to be occupied: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Navigation system or method to be used to position sample locations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Method of sample analyses, storage, and handling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Description and list of the final analyzed and/or processed data which will result from operations under the proposed activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Estimated date on which samples, logs, and analyzed and/or processed data will be ready for inspection: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Attach map(s), plat(s), and chart(s) (preferably at a scale of 1:250,000) showing latitude and longitude, scale, specific block numbers, specific boring sample locations, and total number of borings or samples proposed.

**Section D Proprietary Information Attachment  
Required for an Application for  
Geophysical Permit**

1. Brief description of the energy source and streamer (receiving array): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Total energy output per impulse: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of impulses per linear mile: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Towing depth of the energy source: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Towing depth of the streamer: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Navigation system or method to be used to position shotpoint locations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Area of activity and total number of line miles proposed: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Description and list of the final processed data which will result from operations under the proposed activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Estimated date on which processed data will be available for inspection: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Attach map(s), plat(s), and chart(s) (preferably at a scale of 1:250,000) showing latitude and longitude, scale, specific block numbers, specific tract lines with line identifications, and the total number of line miles proposed.

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**NONEXCLUSIVE USE AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

- A. State the time and manner in which data and information resulting from the proposed activity will be made available to the public for inspection and reproduction, such time being the earliest practicable time.

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- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (applicant) agrees that the data and information resulting from the proposed activity will not be sold or withheld for exclusive use.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print Name of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Submit:** Original, two copies, and one public information copy.